

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 21, 2006. Claims 1-11, 26, 29, and 32 remain pending in this application. Claims 18-25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, and 34 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 26, and 32 are in independent form.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-11, 26, 29, and 32.

Claims 18-25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 5,838,678 to *Davis et al.* in view of U.S. Patent 6,262,990 to *Ejiri*, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,463,060 to *Sato*.

Cancellation of Claims 18-25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, and 34 renders the rejections of those claims moot.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims having been allowed, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Raymond A. DiPerna
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,063

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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